In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows. On page 1, please amend the fourth paragraph under "Background of the Invention" as follows:

Microsoft Office '97 is a computer program product that offers an intelligent helper, but control of such helper is completely in the hands of each user. Thus, there is no means by which the management of a company can persistently communicate with its employees in a highly visible manner.

Please edit the detailed description of the Preferred Embodiment section as follows:

This applicationincorporates by reference the contents ofUS Patent 5,787,254 and US Patent Application Sel. No. 09/447,293.

With reference now to the figures and in particular with reference to FIG. 1, there is depicted a pictorial representation of a data-processing system in which the present invention may be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. A personal computer 10 is depicted which includes a system unit 12, a video display terminal 14, an alphanumeric input device (i.e., keyboard 16) having alphanumeric and other keys, and a mouse 18. An additional input device (not shown) such as a trackball or stylus can also be included with personal computer 10. Personal computer 10 can be implemented utilizing any suitable computer such as an IBM Aptiva.TM. computer, a product of International Business Machines Corporation, located in Armonk, N.Y. "Aptiva" is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corporation. Although the depicted embodiment involves a personal computer, a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented in other types of data-processing systems, such as, for example, intelligent workstations or mini-computers. Computer 10 also preferably includes a graphical user interface that resides within a machine-readable media to direct the operation of computer 10.

Referring now to FIG. 2, there is depicted a block diagram of selected components in personal computer 10 of FIG. 1 in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented. Personal computer 10 of FIG. 1 preferably includes a system bus 20, as depicted in FIG. 2. System bus 20 is utilized for interconnecting and establishing communication between various components in personal computer 10. A microprocessor, such as central processing unit (CPU) 22, is connected to system bus 20 and also may have numeric coprocessor 24 connected to it. Direct memory access (DMA) controller 26 is also connected to system bus 20 and allows various devices to appropriate cycles from CPU 22 during large input/output (I/O) transfers. Read-only memory (ROM) 28 and random-access memory (RAM) 30 are also connected to system bus 20. RAM 30 can support a number of Internet access tools, including, for example, an HTTP-compliant Web browser. ROM 28 is mapped into CPU 22 address space in the range from 640K to 1 megabyte. CMOS RAM 32 is attached to system bus 20 and contains system configuration information. Any suitable machine-readable media may retain the graphical user interface of computer 10 of FIG. 1, such as RAM 30, ROM 28, a magnetic diskette, magnetic tape, or optical disk. Other technologies can also be utilized in conjunction with CPU 22, such as touch-screen technology or human voice control. In addition, computer 10 includes a control program 53 which resides within computer storage 51. Control program 31 contains instructions that when executed on CPU 22 carries out the operations depicted in the logic flow charts described herein.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the hardware depicted in FIG. 2 may vary for specific applications. For example, other peripheral devices such as optical disk media, audio adapters, or chip-programming devices, such as PAL or EPROM programming devices well-known in the art of computer hardware, and the like may be utilized in addition to or in place of the hardware already depicted. In the example depicted in FIG. 2, a computer program product (i.e., control program 53) can reside in computer storage 51. However, it is important that while the present invention has been, and will continue to be, described in a context of a fully functional computer system, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the graphical user interface of the

present invention is capable of being distributed as a computer program product via floppy disk, CD ROM, or other form of recordable media or via any type of signal bearing media or electronic transmission mechanism, such as a modem.

Also connected to system bus 20 are memory controller 34, bus controller 36, and interrupt controller 38 which serve to aid in the control of data flow through system bus 20 between various peripherals, adapters, and devices. System unit 12 of FIG. 1 also contains various I/O controllers such as those depicted in FIG. 2: keyboard and mouse controller 40, video controller, 42, parallel controller 44, serial controller 46, and diskette controller 48. Keyboard and mouse controller 40 provide a hardware interface for keyboard 50 and mouse 52. Video controller 42 provides a hardware interface for video display terminal 54. Parallel controller 44 provides a hardware interface for devices such as printer 56. Serial controller 46 provides a hardware interface for devices such as a modem 58. Diskette controller 48 provides a hardware interface for floppy-disk unit 60.

Expansion cards also may be added to system bus 20, such as disk controller 62, which provides a hardware interface for hard disk unit 64. Empty slots 66 are provided so that other peripherals, adapters, and devices may be added to system unit 12 of FIG. 1. A network card 67 additionally can be connected to system bus 20 in order to link system unit 12 of FIG. 1 to other data-processing system networks in a client/server architecture, or to groups of computers and associated devices which are connected by communications facilities. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the hardware depicted in FIG. 2 may vary for specific applications. For example, other peripheral devices such as optical disk media, audio adapters, or chip-programming devices such as PAL or EPROM programming devices and the like also may be utilized in addition to or in place of the hardware already depicted. Note that any or all of the above components and associated hardware may be utilized in various embodiments. However, it can be appreciated that any configuration of aforementioned system may be used for various purposes according to a particular implementation.

FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram illustrative of a client/server architecture which can be utilized in accordance with the method and system of the present invention. In FIG. 3, user requests 91 for news are sent by a client application program 92 to a server 88. Client application program 92 may be utilized with computer 10 of FIG. 1 and the implementation of computer 10 illustrated in FIG. 2. Server 88 performs scanning and searching of raw (e.g., unprocessed) information sources (e.g., newswire feeds or newsgroups) and, based upon these user requests, presents the filtered electronic information as server responses 93 to the client process. The client process may be active in a first computer system, and the server process may be active in a second computer system, communicating with one another over a communication medium, thus providing distributed functionality and allowing multiple clients to take advantage of the information-gathering capabilities of the server.

FIG. 4 illustrates a detailed block diagram of a client/server architecture associated with browsing the Internet using browser software.

Client 92 and server 88 communicate using the functionality provided by Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). The World Wide Web or the "Web" includes all the servers adhering to this standard which are accessible to clients via universal resource locators. Active within client 92 is a first process, browser 72, which establishes the connections with server 88 and presents information to the user.

Server 88 executes the corresponding server software which presents information to the client in the form of HTTP responses 90. The HTTP responses 90 correspond with the Web "pages" represented using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), or other data which is generated by the server.

FIG. 5 illustrates a graphical user interface window 100 of the prior art in which a sample World Wide Web page 102 is displayed in accordance with the method and system of the present invention. A graphical user interface is a type of display format that enables a user to choose commands, start programs, and see lists of files and other options by pointing to pictorial representations (icons) and lists of menu items on the screen. Choices can generally be activated by either a keyboard or a mouse. The size

and position of elevator 106 within scroll bar 109 corresponds to the size and position of the current viewable page in relation to the document displayed within window 100.

Referring now to FIGS. 6 and 7 ~~1 and 2~~, the method 230~~10~~ includes ~~comprising~~ the steps of: (1) initialising a command file with inputs from a system administrator of the network, including providing an interface by which the system administrator can customize banners 2 displayed on each browser interface 4; and (2) executing the command file, thus displaying banners 2 as ordered by the command file.

In the first step, initialization 210, a computer system including at least two personal computers connected in a network, is initialised in an initialization process.

In a first initializing step 212, the method queries a system administrator for initializing inputs including a selection of at least in part customized banners and any display sequence and time duration information.

In a second initialising step 222, the method creates a command file based on the inputs received.

In a third intitialising step 224, the method saves the command file.

Referring now to FIG. 8 ~~3~~, the method 230 of operation ofthe invention is shown.

In a first operational step 232, upon loading ofthe browser, the method executes the command file.

In a second operational step 234, the method displays banners according to the command file.

In a third operational step 236, optionally, if someone clicks on the currently displayed banner, the browser performs a prescribed action, such as downloading a document (such as a web page) that is associated with the currently displayed image.

The initialization process 210 will now be described in further detail.

In the first initialisation step 12, the following substeps are executed.

In a first substep 214, when the System Administrator logs on to the system admin module, the method presents the user with a popup window which queries the system administrator as to whether he would like to customize the banners being

displayed.

In a second substep 216, if the system administrator responds in the affirmative via a checkbox on the popup, the method presents the system administrator with a banner management interface presenting a banner directory tree of existing banners organized under themes or subject headings, a command file editor and a custom banner composition window.

In a third substep 220, respond to user inputs to configure the presentation of data and graphics on the banner window.

In the second initialization step 222, the command file editor is used to create the command file.

The banner director tree inc1udes a directory structure of canned and customized banners stored under certain directory names, like Productivity, Mission Statement, attitude/morale, PC tips, Research Tips, Meetings, On this Day in History, Dilbert, and Birthdays. Selecting a directory tree theme opens up subthemes and banners which may be highlighted and copies to the command file using the command file editor.

The command file editors allows the system administrator to select and arrange banners is a presentation order and assign duration times to each banner, thus determining the length of time each banner will be displayed. Optionally, a manner of display can be selected, such as a flashing display, a faded outline display, a scrolling display, etc.

The custom banner composition window presents the system administrator with an animation, graphics and a text editor by which he can input and format the position of text and graphics in creating a custom banner which he can save under the directory tree under the folder name of his choosing. The banners created using this editor may be simple text banners such as "All Hands meeting today, 11:30, in the Cafeteria", or "Jody's birthday-she's 32!", or "To optimise your PC, periodically delete temp files".

In a third initialization step 224 of the initialisation process 210, after the system administrator has made his selections of banners, inc1uding any that he may have created using the custom banner editor, and has ordered the banners to his liking,

using the command file editor, he saves the command file.

In the second step 226 of the method 230 of the invention, the system administrator may now click execute, thus executing the command file.

In another feature of the invention, the banner management interface queries the system administrator to determine if he would like to create new command files for execution at certain times in the future, such as the next day. The interface of course may provide control means permitting the system administrator to proactively access this calendar feature. Thus, the system administrator may mark for execution in the future the banners of his choosing. Further, the system administrator, using the banner management interface, can create command files which execute only on certain browsers on the company intranet, through association with the browser identifiers of each user. Thus, the invention may be used as a reminder system.

It should be noted that the system administrator can be an individual user. In this embodiment, each user would be able to customize the banners shown on their browser.

The method 230 is particularly advantageous when used with project-based browsing, in which Internet research is tracked to a particular project name.

Multiple variations and modifications are possible in the embodiments of the invention described here. Although certain illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described here, a wide range of modifications, changes, and substitutions is contemplated in the foregoing disclosure. In some instances, some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use ofthe other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the foregoing description be construed broadly and understood as being given by way of illustration and example only, the spirit and scope ofthe invention being limited only by the appended claims.

§ § §

Support for the above amendments is clearly found in US Patent No. 5,787,254, in the claims, in Col. 2, in Cols. 4-7, to line 52, and basically throughout the disclosure thereof, the content of which was duly incorporated into the application as filed. No new matter has therefore been entered.